

**Leo Ledohowski**  
**B.A., B. Comm., M.B.A., C.M.A.,**  
**C.H.A., F.C.M.A.**

Leo is a Manitoban whose history goes back to the immigration of the Ledohowski family to Canada in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His humble beginnings and his strong work ethic, instilled in him by his parents and grandparents, provided him with boundless energy and a commitment to his city, province and country, as well as, an appreciation and pride in his Ukrainian heritage.

Leo decided to make the hospitality industry his career serving as a university professor in the Faculty of Commerce at both Carleton University in Ottawa and then at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. In the early 1970's, he worked as a professor at the University of Manitoba while being deeply involved with the family business.

His academic background includes several degrees and awards, including a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction (Economics), a Bachelor of Commerce, with Great Distinction (Administration), both from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Masters of Business Administration (Accounting and Finance) from McMaster University. As well, he was a national award winner placing 6<sup>th</sup> highest in Canada as a Certified Management Accountant. Leo received his Certified Hotel Administrator designation in 1990.

In May 2003, Leo received the Distinguished Service award from the University of Manitoba. This award is conferred by the Board of Governors on the basis of distinguished contributions to Manitoba in areas which are of major interest to the University of Manitoba and/or which are directly associated with the University. In October 2003, Leo received the FCMA, a designation recognizing outstanding contribution to the management accounting profession, CMA Canada and the community.

One of the fundamental operating principles key to the success of Canad Inns is a commitment to the local community. Leo is the driving force behind the vision of community involvement and participation. Canad Inns has been, and continues to be, a community-minded corporation with a tradition of family involvement and a responsible corporate attitude. The company's community involvement is demonstrated at a local level, as well as, in the larger municipal and provincial contexts. The individual hotel locations are each firmly established as community enterprises and offer support to a myriad of worthy causes.

In March 2005, Leo was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Business Development Bank of Canada, a financial institution wholly owned by the Government of Canada. In September 2005, Leo was appointed to the Board of Directors of Destination Winnipeg. In February 2008, Leo was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada. The Bank of Canada is Canada's central bank with responsibilities to focus on the goals of low and stable inflation, a safe and secure currency, financial stability and the efficient management of government funds and public debt.

In May 2007, Leo received the 2007 Canadian Industry Entrepreneur Award from the Canadian Hotel Investment Conference. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the Canadian Hotel Industry.

Leo is involved in the world-wide recognition of the Holodomor- the famine genocide in Ukraine 1932-1933. He was instrumental in the local commemorative activities of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor and produced a video documentary of stories from the famine survivors living in Manitoba.

His donation and distribution of the Holodomor video to the school libraries will encourage students to have discussions on the importance of tolerance shown to those of different religions, race, ethnic origin and political view. It will also create an understanding that differences of opinions and disagreements should not be settled by violence, murder, wars, genocides or holocausts but by humane, peaceful and respectful negotiations. As a result of his endeavours, students from across Manitoba and the world will become aware of the atrocities created by dictatorships and those in power who lack respect for human life.

Recently, Leo presented the video to representatives of the official Holodomor Commemorative Site in Kyiv, Ukraine. He also had the honour of hosting the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko and Mrs. Yushchenko during their visit to Winnipeg where he presented them with the video.

In January, 2009, he was honoured by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Winnipeg at the Malanka celebration.

Leo's promotion of the human rights issues within the educational system was instrumental in introducing Holodomor as one of the topics in the study of Social Justice and Humanities. His involvement both financially and morally in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights will most definitely ensure that the plight and injustices perpetrated upon the Ukrainian people under the Soviet regime will not be untold. His personal donation of one million dollars, as well as, his work with Ukrainians across Canada to raise more funds will assure a permanent exhibit on Holodomor at the Museum.

More than twenty years ago a delegation approached the Board of Trustees of a large School Division in Manitoba to ask for the inclusion of the Ukrainian famine along with the Holocaust as a unit of study in the High School Social Studies curriculum. Their request did not meet with success. It took Leo's efforts to make it happen.

The English Ukrainian Bilingual Program, not only teaches the Ukrainian language, but also, introduces the students to the culture and history of the Ukrainian people. Holodomor is an important part of that history. It is Leo's contribution to the schools, universities and other educational institutions that has provided students with a historical resource for the promotion of social justice.

The Osvita Foundation of Manitoba is pleased to honour a person whose efforts have brought a tragic part of Ukrainian history to the forefront.